

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraphs [001] and [045] with the following paragraphs:

[001] Related U. S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/035,747, filed on even date herewith in the name of Guy L. Steele Jr. and entitled "Floating Point System That Represents Status Flag Information Within A Floating Point Operand," assigned to the assignee of the present application, is hereby incorporated by reference.

[045] Related U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/035,747, which has previously been incorporated by reference, describes an exemplary floating point unit in which floating point status information is encoded in the representations of the results generated thereby. The exemplary floating point unit includes a plurality of functional units, including an adder unit, a multiplier unit, a divider unit, a square root unit, a maximum/minimum unit, a comparator unit and a tester unit, all of which operate under control of functional unit control signals provided by a control unit. The present application is directed to an exemplary combining or accumulation circuit that can be used as another functional unit or as part of the aforementioned functional units in the floating point unit described in related U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/035,747, to accumulate floating point status information from a plurality of floating point values that may comprise results from a plurality of floating point operations.